

THE ROCK LICKER

VOLUME 49—ISSUE 8

AUGUST —2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE-Tim Tiffin-President

It was great seeing many of you at our Independence Day booth in Pioneer Park! A special thanks goes out to each of you that assisted in manning the booth during the day. Many people dropped by to view our display and chat with us. In addition, 19 people signed our sheet for more information about the club, and 46 people purchased 118 raffle tickets for our amethyst cathedral.

It was also great seeing many of you at our July club picnic! Our first bazaar seemed to go over well with everyone. A very big thank you to all of you that participated to make it a success!

Looking ahead, it's not too early to put in a plug for two of our September events. At our club meeting on September 9, we will be having a contest featuring those rocks and minerals that you found or that you did lapidary work on this year. Like last year, all the winning entries will be displayed at the Gem and Mineral Show on September 13-14.

And speaking of the annual show, it looks like we will have around 10 vendors this year – which is a 25% increase over last year! If you are able to help out in any way with the show, be it with the set-up (on September 12) or with the tickets at the door or with the silent auction or with the kid's booth or whatever, please let me or one of the club officers know. It takes all of us working together to make the annual show a big success!

Thanks for being an integral part of the club, and I'll look forward to seeing you at our next club meeting on August 12.

Tim Tiffin-President

Expanded Coming Events Calendar

There are several dates and activities coming up soon that everyone should be aware of. Several of the events still need volunteer help.

August 5: Deadline for those intending to exhibit items at the fair to submit their entry forms to the fairgrounds office.

August 20: We need 2 or 3 volunteers to set up the display at the fairgrounds.

August 27-31 Walla Walla County fair. We need some volunteers to serve as exhibit monitors and to interact with the fair goers.

September 9: Our September meeting will be a contest to determine the best rock and mineral items that club members have found or made this year. Winning pieces will be put on display in the club display case at our Gem and Mineral Show.

September 12: Setup for our Gem and Mineral show at the fairgrounds.

September 13-14 The Gem and Mineral show at the fairgrounds.

COMING EVENTS

- *The next meeting will be on August 12 starting at our usual time, **6:30 pm**.*
- *Last day to submit fair exhibit entry forms is August 5.*
- *September 13-14 our local club's gem and mineral show.*

August

Refreshments

Members whose last name begins with A-M please bring fresh fruit.

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Rock of the Month— Jasper

Jasper is a cryptocrystalline variety of the mineral, Quartz (SiO_2), the most abundant single mineral on earth. Quartz makes up 12% of the earth's crust, occurring in a wide variety of igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks.

Quartz varieties are commonly separated into two groups based on the size of the individual grains or crystals; macrocrystalline quartz in which individual crystals are distinguishable with the naked eye, and cryptocrystalline quartz in which the individual crystals are only distinguishable under a light microscope.

The cryptocrystalline varieties of quartz may be further separated into two categories; fibrous and microgranular. Chalcedony is the general term applied to the fibrous varieties. Agate is an example of a fibrous cryptocrystalline variety of quartz. Chert is the general term applied to the granular varieties of quartz, of which jasper is a common example.

Jasper is thought to form by the replacement of calcareous rock by silica-rich solutions, as by direct marine precipitation of silica gel or organic silica. Jasper is commonly associated with imbedded hematite ore deposits of Precambrian age. It occurs as a petrifying agent in fossil wood and bone.

Jasper can be found in several colors but the most common is reddish brown color is due to hematite or goethite impurities. Other forms take on a green or yellowish color depending on the kind of impurities that are present.

Jasper has limited commercial value but since it can be highly polished, it is often used for inexpensive jewelry and small ornamental objects.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

- Chemical composition: SiO_2
- Class: tectosilicate
- Crystal system: hexagonal
- Crystal habit: micro granular quartz
- Specific gravity: 2.58-2.91
- Hardness: 5.4-7.0 on the mohs scale
- Color: red, brown, green or yellow
- Luster: dull vitreous to greasy
- Transparency: translucent to opaque
- Fracture: conchoidal
- Streak: white
- Cleavage: none although parting may occur along laminations

Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days Deadline Approaches

August 5 is the last day to submit entry forms if you intend to exhibit items at this year's fair.

This year, in addition to exhibiting the gem and mineral items entered by individuals from the community, the club will have an educational exhibit that demonstrates tumbling of petrified wood. It will include samples of un-tumbled material, the different grits used, a brief write-up of the process and a sample of the finished product. In addition we are also thinking of having a tumbler operating as part of the exhibit. Club members will be present during the peak traffic periods to answer questions.

We also hope to have some club promotional material available to hand out to those interested.

Thanks in advance to those who have offered to help staff the exhibit. Jim Brain-Fair Superintendent

Gem and Mineral Show Rapidly Approaching

Please mark your calendars for September 12, 13 and 14. These are the dates for our Gem and Mineral show. We need each one of you to help and participate. Last year we had 44 club member's volunteer their time during the weekend, which was wonderful. Thank you again to each one of you. I hope we can have that many, or more club members again this year. The old saying that "many hands make light work" is true. At the next meeting we will have a sign up sheet for the different activities that we need your help. These will range from night watch, greeting and selling tickets, silent auction, to helping out in the different booths. Also we need help Friday morning and Sunday night with setting up and tearing down the show. We will also have sign up sheets for reserving a display case. Thank you in advance for your help and participation in our show. I truly believe it will be a fun and rewarding experience for you.

Warren Rood—Show chairman

August Program

Show 'n Tell—Geodes or nodules

Tim Tiffin will lead a discussion on geodes unless he comes up with a more interesting subject.

The Edward's Go "Fishing" in Wyoming

We left on our trip to Kemmerer, Wyoming on July 11. Since we had an extra day we decided to visit the Bruneau, ID area to dig for fossilized wood at the Bruneau woodpile. We spent a half day there and after two hours, and hard work got a large piece or wood.

We arrived in Kemmerer early in the afternoon so decided to drive on out to the Blue Forest to look for fossilized wood. After a couple of hours we had picked a bucket of wood without digging. After our return to our motel we connected with Bruce and Pat Bennett who we were going to dig fish with.

The next two days were spent breaking rock looking for fossil fish at the Fossil Lake Fish Co. quarry North of Kemmerer. The weather was in the low 80's, but it was still warm in the quarry which is located at an altitude 7300 ft. We were able to find over 50 excellent fossil specimens of several types of fish. We both fully enjoyed our trip.

The drive home was 680 miles, but we were home in time to prepare for the Club field trip to the Hells Canyon Gem Club quartz claim. That is another story.

Jack and Charlene

Be Prepared

Some things to consider anytime you plan to travel into any unfamiliar area.

1. Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to be back and don't deviate from your plan without telling someone.
2. If hiking leave a note in your car detailing where you will be going.
3. Take enough emergency food and water to last you two days longer than you plan to be gone.
4. Take enough clothing for the worst possible weather you may encounter.
5. If you take medications, take enough to last 3 days.
6. Make sure that you have waterproof matches and a good knife.

Carry your emergency supplies in a waterproof bag or container. Should you get lost or turned around:

1. Sit down and stay calm.
2. Make a mental plan to best use the emergency supplies you have.
3. Build a small fire in a safe location for both warmth and to signal your location.

Federation Reminder—Thanks to those who have been saving their postage stamps.

I would like to remind the other members to save commemorative and regular postage stamps. The money generated from stamps collected by all of our NW Federation Clubs are sold and the funds are used for Cancer Research. If each member saved five stamps a month it would add up fast. Start by saving the stamp from this month's Rock Licker newsletter.

Continue to save your stamps and give them me at our monthly meetings.

Jack Edwards-Federation Director

Life Members

Doug Anderson
 L. A. Davin
 Paula Bremrose
 John Rand
 Bill Smelcer
 Charlotte Smelcer

Safety Tip

Fire Starter – To start a fire in rain or snow, keep a tube of rubber cement handy. It is highly flammable and will light instantly, even in a down pour, and it can be carried easily. (via Eureka Rock and Gem)

Kid's Corner—

For the August meeting, the Juniors will be making Mystery Rocks for the Kid's Corner at the Club's Show. Last year the Juniors helped make 110 of these and they sold out. I would like all the Juniors to come and help with this activity, which helps support our club and the Juniors activities throughout the year. I look forward to having you all come and help, see you then.

Kim French -Juniors Advisor

HOT TIP ON THUNDEREGGS

Many lapidaries now heat nodule and thunder egg halves under a heat lamp for a few minutes before polishing with tin oxide or cerium oxide on felt. The polish comes up almost instantly. Alternatives include putting specimens in a 200 degree oven until warm to the touch, or putting them in a kettle full of hot water until they are warm. Dry off excess water before polishing.

(From Rockhound Ramblings, 06/07 via Quarry Quips, 06/07)

Editor's note: Thanks Suzanne for this bit of information.

Local Area Shows Coming Up—Plan on attending one if you can

The HATROCKHOUNDS Annual Rock Auction is Sunday, August 3, 2008

Activity: Potluck picnic starting at 1:00 pm with an oral auction to follow.

Location: The Gazebo in Victory Square Park (the park is located between Orchard Ave. and Hermiston Ave. at 11th Street) in Hermiston, Oregon.

Any of our members are welcome to attend the potluck/picnic that will be prior to the auction and can bring a dish to contribute (although it is not mandatory to bring a dish). In addition, anyone can bring items to sell with the split being 80%-20%.

July Program Highlights

July's program featured, in addition to our annual club picnic, a bazaar where club members were invited to bring handmade items of all types to sell or trade with other club members. Those showing some of their hand made items included:

Ralph Tretheway — bronze and silver castings and carved antler work.

Suzanne Young—hand sewn items including a neat item that you put around your neck to keep cool.

Paul McCaskil —several art quality photographs.

Steve Fletcher — carved wooden figures.

Warren Rood —several pieces petrified wood that he had shaped and polished.

Bethany Huntley —a display case of collectable pins and political campaign buttons.

Steve Shoemaker —a variety of polished rocks and mineral samples.

Bill Smelcer — some of the wooden lighthouse he makes.

It was good for all of us to see the multitude of talents that exists amongst the club members.

Highlights From The July 1 Board Meeting —Sandy Kinsfather-Secretary

We voted to cash in our CD.

After much discussion, the Board voted to raise the annual dues for 2009 membership to \$12.00 for a single member over 18 years old. \$25.00 for a family. \$5.00 for a child under 18 not under a family membership. Parents would be required to sign a release for the child to go on a field trip stating the name of the responsible party.

Deferred for future discussion: Seeking a financial grant to fund the purchase new display cases.

Secretary's Report—July 8, 2008 Club Meeting Minutes –Sandy Kinsfather

Prior to the monthly meeting we had our annual picnic potluck for members and families.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Tim Tiffin at 7:10.

Welcome of Guests: The club welcomed the following visitors: Betsy and Marlin Brinkley (new members); Steve Shoemaker (from Burbank who joined two years ago but is unable to attend most meetings because of scheduling conflicts); and Chris Wall a member who has not attended for a while. Welcome!

Announcements:

Tim thanked the members who helped with our table at the 4th of July in the Park festival pro-

moting our club and help sell raffle tickets. They contacted many prospective members and sold \$104 worth of raffle tickets.

President Tiffin mentioned that juniors going on club field trips without a parent going along will need to have the parents sign a release before the junior can go.

Old Business:

Coming field trip reports:

Jack Edwards gave instructions for the field trip to the crystal claim scheduled for July 18-20.

Warren Rood discussed the July 12 trip to Kaner Flats for thunder eggs.

The goethite trip has been postponed to a later date. More information at our August meeting.

Upcoming events:

The annual gem show is coming up on Sept. 13-14. We still need lots of help.

Jim Brain mentioned that the entry deadline for the fair is August 5th. He still needs volunteers to hang around the rock and gem exhibits in the flower section of the fair.

Evening Program:

Our evening highlight was a bazaar where members brought arts and crafts they have made to sell or swap with other club. See the related article on page 4 for a listing of the bazaar participants.

After about an hour of selling their goods, the members packed up and the event ended.

Treasurer's Report

The club received membership dues from another new member this month bringing our combined adult and junior membership to over 140 individuals. We also have received registration fees from six commercial exhibitors who have reserved booth space at our September Gem and Mineral Show.

Ralph Tretheway-Treasurer

2008 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES SCHEDULE

FAMILY—\$15.00

SINGLE—\$10.00

JUNIOR—\$3.00*

***WITH ACCOMPANYING
ADULT MEMBERSHIP**

**BLUE DIAMOND CLUB
NAME TAG
\$6.50**

A Note from the Editor

I am always looking for material to include in the Rock Licker. My goal is to make the Rock Licker your newsletter, not limited to board members reporting club activities.

If you have something you would like to have included, send it to me at:
jrbrain@gte.net

Or call 509-522-2261

Club Outing to Kaner Flats

About 30 of us from the club went up to the Kaner Flats area to dig thunder eggs. I think it is safe to say everybody found thunder eggs, however we did not all find each other. That is because some of us left early and came back early and some just went for the day and some went for two days. No matter the length of stay, the weather and the views and the wildlife were gorgeous.

The eggs were large, at least for Ralph, Jared and Garrett. The rest of us had to be satisfied with melon or baseball size or even smaller. We spent a lot of time at the original dig site, but we also explored another area that was supposed to contained 12" geodes on a ridge. We never did find the geodes, only pockets where they once were. However we did find small crystal lined eggs, wildflowers and excellent vistas. The opportunity to make new friends and to eat delicious smores around the evening campfire was also a treat.

Warren Rood

Field Trip to Hells Canyon Claim

Twelve members of our club made the trip to the Hell's Canyon Club's Claim on July 18, 2008.

Making the trip were: Marlin Brinkley; Russell, Sandy and Jared Kinsfather; Randy and Barbara Pierce, and their two children; Warren, Jason and Jeremy Rood, and myself.

The trip from Clarkia to the claim was slowed by my flat tire, and until a wreck was cleared from the narrow road. We finally arrived at the gate and drove to the camping site where we were greeted by Jim Fauver, Claim Chairman, and Club VP Mel Wilks and his wife Betty of the Hells Canyon Club. After everyone got their tents set up, Jim walked us up to the lower claim area, and showed us the shower that he had put up. After setting around a relaxing fire, we all settled in for the night.

Saturday morning after breakfast most headed to the claim to do some crystal digging. During the day eight more members of the Hells Canyon Club joined us for the outing. At the end of the day Sandy and Marlin had the most outstanding crystal groups.

Sunday morning Jim took the group to the upper diggings of the claim where everyone found more quartz crystals. The group then was taken to the garnet claim by Gene Huston, who assisted members in digging and sifting garnets at two of his claim sites. Because I was short a tire I decided to head home before the days activities started. Jason Rood rode home with me. On the way down we saw a large group of elk with 3 calves, and a bull Moose which we followed down the road for a short distance.

From reports I have received everyone found quartz crystals, and garnets, enjoyed the campfire and meeting members of the Hells Canyon Club. Thanks to Jim Fauver, Gene Huston, and the Hells Canyon members, for making the field trip memorable.

Jack Edwards

THE CLUB LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors:

President: Tim Tiffin	509-525-3766	ttiffin@innw.net
Vice-President: Keith Bacus	509-529-1248	keithbacus@yahoo.com
Secretary: Sandy Kinsfather	509-529-1455	sandyj@bmi.net
Treasurer: Ralph Trethewey	509-529-9209	
Federation Director: Jack Edwards	509-529-3673	edwardsj@wwics.com
Federation Delegate: Charlene Edwards	509-529-3673	
Junior Activity Director: Kim French	509-525-7387	frenchke@hscis.net
Past President: Warren Rood	509-522-2330	wrood@coffeycomm.com

Supporting Cast:

Classes: Steve Rice, Ralph Trethewey
 Drawing: Bill Stonecipher
 Historian: Charlene Edwards
 Lapidary: Paul McCaskill, Ray Wister
 Librarian: Yvonne Brewer
 Photographers: David Walk, Russell Kinsfather
 Programs: Warren Rood
 Refreshments: Crystal Walk, Charlotte Smelcer
 Show and Tell: Keith Bacus
 Publicity: Linda and Bill Stonecipher
 Stamps: Jack Edwards
 Sunshine: Marilyn McCann
 Web Master: David Walk

Working Groups:

Field Trips: Bill Stonecipher, Steve Rice, Ray Wister, Keith Bacus, Warren Rood
 Junior Club: Kim French, Tracie Tiffin, Kellie Casebier, Bill and Charlotte Smelcer, Karen Bumgarner
 Membership: Charlene Edwards, Sandy Kinsfather
 Show: Warren Rood-chairperson, Jack and Charlene Edwards, Bill and Linda Stonecipher, Kim and Kevin French, Bill and Charlotte Smelcer,

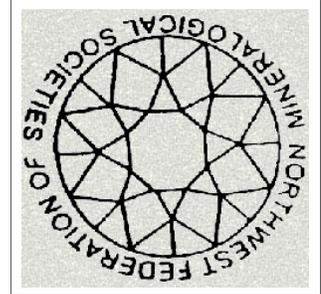
Affiliations:

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) <http://www.amfed.org>
 Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies (NFMS) <http://www.amfed.org.nfms>

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The Rock Licker

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To:

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THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
AND
THE NORTHWEST FEDERATION
OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
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THE ROCK LICKER is the official monthly publication of the **Marcus Whitman Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.** (NFMS Club # 719), PO Box 338, Walla Walla, WA 99362.

The objective of the Society is to encourage the study of earth science through suitable programs, field trips, exhibits and other educational activities. People of all ages are welcome to join us. There are junior club activities for youth under the age of 17.

Regular club meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month (except July and December) at the Lions Club Field House on the corner of SE 8th St and SE Larch Ave. in College Place, WA. Both the Juniors club activities and general club meeting start at 6:30 pm.

Note: July is reserved for a club picnic and December is reserved for the Christmas party and potluck.